



# KEY NOTES

e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Nov. 18, 2011

## Maritime festival to launch 1812 bicentennial in June



On Nov. 17, Gov. Martin O'Malley joined Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and representatives from the U.S. Navy and Operation Sail, Inc., to announce an international maritime festival – [Star-Spangled Sailabration](#) – that will launch Maryland's three-year War of 1812 bicentennial commemoration. The festival runs June 13-19, 2012, in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay.

Dozens of Navy ships and tall ships from the U.S. and around the globe are expected to line Baltimore's harbor during the week, bringing thousands of sailors to the region. "We are pleased to welcome these ships to the Inner Harbor and the Bay for this historic celebration that will remind Americans of how, through courage and conviction, Marylanders from all walks of life came together and gave our nation her flag and national anthem," Gov. O'Malley said.



The festival will offer: free, on-board public tours of ships; official visits by international dignitaries and Navy leadership; fireworks; crew sporting-competitions; community-service projects; living-history displays; educational activities; a public-art

project; and a new symphonic work in tribute to the bicentennial.

Star-Spangled Sailabration is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Baltimore and the region, generating significant national and international media coverage.

### In this Issue

[Maritime festival to launch 1812 bicentennial in June](#)

[Frederick/Montgomery Star-Spangled 200 event set for Dec. 14](#)

[Become an official partner of Star-Spangled 200](#)

[1812 stakeholders in Anne Arundel tour Annapolis](#)

[Royal Armouries offers 1812 artifacts on loan](#)

[Summer performance series brings 1812 figures to life](#)

[The Preservation Society receives top honors](#)

[Costuming group creates 1812-era attire](#)

[SHA invites applications for Scenic Byway grants](#)

[Holiday ornament commemorates 1812 privateer](#)

[Featured site: Benedict](#)

### Upcoming Events

[The Capital City and Capital Hostess: War of 1812](#)

Dec. 3

[Potomac on Fire](#)

Dec. 4

## Frederick/Montgomery Star-Spangled 200 event set for Dec. 14

The next Star-Spangled 200 Conference – presented by the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to familiarize stakeholders with the sites, stories and organizations related to the War of 1812 in Maryland – will be Dec. 14, 9:30 – 5 p.m., and start at the Frederick Visitor Center.

Opening sessions feature presentations by Ralph Eshelman, a prominent Maryland War of 1812 author and historian, and Alan Gephardt, a ranger at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine who will arrive as Francis Scott Key. A subsequent tour includes 1812-related sites in Frederick and a stop in Brookeville (Montgomery County) at the Madison House, the residence where James Madison sought refuge on Aug. 26, 1814, after the British sacked Washington D.C.

For more information, call or e-mail [Kate Marks](#), 410-767-6974. Cost of the conference is \$50; advance [registration](#) is required. Previous conferences have been held in Southern Maryland, Prince George's County, Upper Bay region, Upper Eastern Shore, North Point, Baltimore City, and Annapolis.

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## Become an official partner of Star-Spangled 200



The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission invites nonprofits and agencies in federal, state and local government to join the [Star-Spangled 200 partnership program](#) at no charge. Partner organizations have use of the Star-Spangled 200 logos. Also, they will be named on the commission's web site (StarSpangled200.org) and in promotional materials and announcements, and receive recognition at events and programs when appropriate.

Organizations in the program support the commission's vision for increasing economic opportunities across the state during the bicentennial period, while showcasing Maryland as a premiere location to live, work, and visit. They may share contacts lists with the commission and host or sponsor bicentennial events or programs.

Complete a partnership application and mail to: Kate Marks, Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, 401 E. Pratt St., 14th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. Applications can also be sent by e-mail to [Kate Marks](#).

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### [Frederick/Montgomery Star-Spangled 200 Conference](#)

Dec. 14

## Recent News

[Harford, Cecil counties tell their stories from War of 1812](#), *The Baltimore Sun*

[Somerset salutes role in War of 1812](#), *DelMarVaNow.com*

[QA's to host War of 1812 events](#)  
[Slippery Hill battle helped American defenders avoid 'huge pickle.'](#)  
*Stardem.com*

Read more [news](#).

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

### Dec. 1

Heritage Preservation  
[Conservation Assessment Program](#)

American Association of Museums  
[Museum Assessment Program](#)

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Implementation grants](#)

### Dec. 8

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Collaborative Research Grants](#)

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants](#)

Maryland State Arts Council  
[Grants for Organizations](#)

### Dec. 15

## 1812 stakeholders in Anne Arundel tour Annapolis



*Ralph Eshelman leads the tour to the United States Naval Academy Museum.*

More than 50 participants toured Fort Nonsense, the [U.S. Naval Academy](#) and the [Maryland State House](#) during the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission's Star-Spangled 200 Conference in Annapolis, Oct. 24.

Anne Arundel County War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and Discover Annapolis tours co-sponsored the event. [Maryland State Archives](#) hosted the morning session, which featured remarks by Anne Arundel County Executive John R. Leopold and Maryland archivist Edward C. Papenfuse. Maryland War of 1812 author and historian Ralph Eshelman also spoke about the role of Annapolis in the war.

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## Royal Armouries offers 1812 artifacts on loan

In celebration of the War of 1812 bicentennial, [Royal Armouries](#) – the United Kingdom's National Museum of Arms and Armour – is loaning items from its collections to North American museums, historic sites, historical societies and other organizations that are planning bicentennial exhibits. The collections include 70,000 items of arms, armor and artillery, along with fine and decorative arts.

Applicants are invited to select items they wish to borrow and specify an amount they can pay. For more information and an illustrated sample list of artifacts, e-mail [Dianne Graves](#), liaison officer for Royal Armouries, or call her at 613-267-9967.

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## Summer performance series brings 1812 figures to life

[Maryland Humanities Council](#) has selected Maryland and the War of 1812 as the theme of Chautauqua 2012 – a series of summer performances planned for July 5 -

Institute of Museum and Library Services

[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#)

[National Medal for Museum and Library Service](#)

### Links



[Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#)



[Star-Spangled 200, Inc.](#)



[Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail](#)



[Baltimore National Heritage Area](#)



[Battle of Bladensburg](#)

[Eastern Shore 1812 Consortium](#)

[Historic Prince George's](#)



[Upper Bay War of 1812](#)

13 at six locations around the state. Scholar-performers present living-history demonstrations depicting the personalities and accomplishments of prominent historical figures.

The council, based in Baltimore, is a nonprofit that uses the humanities to encourage informed conversation and civic engagement on vital issues. Its Chautauqua series, which began in 1995, is an educational program in the tradition of the lectures that drew large audiences every summer at the resorts around Chautauqua Lake in upstate New York during the late 1800s.

Chautauqua 2012 will features performances based on the lives of Rosalie Stier Calvert, Francis Scott Key, James Madison, Mary Pickersgill and Robert Ross (a British military officer). For more information, call the Humanities Council at 410-685-0095.

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## The Preservation Society receives top honors

[The Preservation Society](#) – a nonprofit dedicated to the historic preservation of Federal Hill and Fell's Point in Baltimore – recently received several awards, including the Stewardship Award from Preservation Maryland and a 2011 Maryland Tourism Award for its Fell's Point Fun Festival 2010.

The Society was also named 2011 Partner of the Year by the Baltimore National Heritage Area for its contributions to the traveling exhibit *Defense of the Nation: Maryland in the War of 1812*. And, readers of *Maryland Life* magazine selected the Authentic Fell's Point Ghost Walk as the best ghost walk.

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## Costuming group creates 1812-era attire

[Southern Maryland Costumers Guild](#) – an educational, research and social group engaged with costuming and the textile arts – has planned a series of workshops at which participants create early-19th century attire. The first event in the *From the Inside Out* series was held Nov. 5 at [Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's](#) Breckinridge Education Center. Participants worked on either a chemise or shift based on 1812-era design.

The group offers free membership and meets every first Thursday at the Breckinridge Education Center at 6:30 p.m. Members have varying degrees of sewing experience; novice sewers are welcome.

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## SHA invites applications for Scenic Byway grants

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) seeks grant proposals for National Scenic Byways Program funding in fiscal 2012. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 9 to SHA. Projects along the Star-Spangled Banner National

Historic Trail and Scenic Byway may be eligible.

Funding priority will go to Maryland proposals that relate to:

- Corridor management plan for an existing state byway
- Plans that forge regional partnerships among jurisdictions and heritage areas
- Conservation or preservation projects for byway-related resources
- Transportation projects that create new jobs, contribute to economic competitiveness
- Projects that offer strategic benefit to the National Scenic Byway Program, Maryland Scenic Byway Program

A Scenic Byways Advisory Committee will review the applications and forward high-scoring ones to the Federal Highway Administration for final review. For more information, call or e-mail [Terry Maxwell](#) at the State Highway Administration, 410-545-8637.

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## Holiday ornament commemorates 1812 privateer

Since 1994, [The Preservation Society](#) in Baltimore annually commissions holiday ornaments that depict historic properties and scenes in the two waterfront neighborhoods that it is dedicated to preserving: Federal Hill and Fell's Point.



This year's ornament commemorates topsail schooners and Captain Thomas Boyle, a Baltimore-based privateer who repeatedly antagonized the British Royal Navy with his exploits. During the War of 1812, the British had to move warships away from military assignments to accompany merchant ships that the American privateers had targeted. The privateers often sailed topsail schooners built in Fell's Point.

The [ornament](#) is available for \$20 at The Preservation Society's visitor center, 1724 Thames St. in Fell's Point. Ornaments from previous years are also available at this price.

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## Featured Site

**Benedict** (Charles County)



On July 17, 1814, Britain's Rear-Admiral George Cockburn wrote a letter to his compatriot Vice-Admiral Alexander Cochrane, saying that he considered Benedict – a town on the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland (named for Benedict Leonard Calvert, the 15th proprietary governor of Maryland)



– to be an advantageous place to come ashore in preparation for an assault on Washington.

"It is ... only 44 or 45 miles from Washington and there is a high road between the two places ... I therefore firmly believe that within 48 hours after the arrival in the Patuxent of such force as you expect, the City of Washington might be possessed without difficulty or opposition of any kind... The army on their arrival would be sure of good quarters in the Town of Benedict, and a rich country around it to afford the necessary immediate supplies..."

About a month later, on Aug. 19-20, more than 4,300 British troops landed at Benedict. The invaders defeated American forces at the Battle of Bladensburg, then proceeded on to sack the nation's capital. They returned to their ships at Benedict on Aug. 29-30.

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*Key Notes* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Send information about your bicentennial planning efforts to [Kate Marks](#) for inclusion in future issues.

PDF files of previous issues of *Key Notes* are available on the Commission's [web site](#).

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